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Documents of Iowa Freedom

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Documents of Iowa Freedom

Iowans could gain much knowledge and inspiration from a Freedom Train containing the outstanding documents of Iowa history. Just as the Columbus manuscript was the first seen on the American Freedom Train, so the discovery of Iowa by Joliet and Marquette could be the starting point on an Iowa Freedom Train. Manuscripts or original books relating to Hennepin, Lahontan, and Perrot in the French period, and to Carver, Dubuque, Tesson, and Giard in the Spanish period, would drive home the impact of these colorful eras on Iowa history.

In the American period a number of Indian treaties, coupled with a page from Black Hawk's *Autobiography*, would serve to remind us of the tragic fate of a minority group that battled against insuperable odds. Equally inspiring would be some fragment from the Lewis and Clark expedition, some item gleaned from the journal of Zebulon M. Pike, a page from the diary of Father De Smet, some fugitive manuscript of the fur trader's frontier, and some soldier's log-book, such as formed the basis of Lieutenant Lea's *Notes on Wisconsin Territory*.

SECTION 4TH. OF THE GREAT RIVER CALLED MISSISSIPI; ITS MOST NOTABLE FEATURES; OF VARIOUS ANIMALS, AND ESPECIALLY THE PISIKIOUS OR WILD CATTLE, THEIR SHAPE AND NATURE; OF THE FIRST VILLAGES OF THE ILINOIS, WHERE THE FRENCH ARRIVED.

HERE we are, then, on this so renowned River, all of whose peculiar features I have endeavored to note carefully. The Missisipi River takes its rise in various lakes in the country of the Northern nations. It is narrow at the place where Miskous empties; its Current, which flows southward, is slow and gentle. To the right is a large Chain of very high Mountains, and to the left are beautiful lands; in various Places, the stream is Divided by Islands. On sounding, we found ten brasses of Water. Its Width is very unequal; sometimes it is three-quarters of a league, and sometimes it narrows to three arpents. We gently followed its Course, which runs toward the south and southeast, as far as the 42nd degree of Latitude. Here we plainly saw that its aspect was completely changed. There are hardly any woods or mountains; The Islands are more beautiful, and are Covered with finer trees. We saw only deer and cattle, bustards, and Swans without wings, because they drop Their plumage in This country. From time to time, we came upon monstrous fish, one of which struck our Canoe with such violence that I Thought that it was a great tree, about to break the Canoe to pieces.²¹ On another occasion, we saw on The water a monster with the head of a tiger, a sharp nose Like That of a wildcat, with whiskers and straight, Erect ears; The head was gray and The Neck quite black; but We saw no

DISCOVERY OF IOWA BY JOLIET AND MARQUETTE

FROM R. G. THWAITES' THE JESUIT RELATIONS

LIFE
OF
MA·KA·TAI·ME·SHE·KIA·KIAK
OR
BLACK HAWK,

EMBRACING THE
TRADITION OF HIS NATION—INDIAN WARS IN WHICH HE HAS
BEEN ENGAGED—CAUSE OF JOINING THE BRITISH IN THEIR
LATE WAR WITH AMERICA, AND ITS HISTORY—DE-
SCRIPTION OF THE ROCK-RIVER VILLAGE—MAN-
NERS AND CUSTOMS—ENCROACHMENTS BY
THE WHITES, CONTRARY TO TREA-
TY—REMOVAL FROM HIS
VILLAGE IN 1831.

WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF THE CAUSE AND GENERAL HISTORY
OF THE
LATE WAR,

HIS
SURRENDER AND CONFINEMENT AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS,
AND
TRAVELS THROUGH THE UNITED STATES.

DICTATED BY HIMSELF.

J. B. Patterson, of Rock Island, Ill. Editor and Proprietor.

BOSTON

1834

TITLE PAGE OF BLACK HAWK'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

NOTES
ON
THE WISCONSIN TERRITORY:
PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO
THE IOWA DISTRICT,
OR
Black Hawk Purchase.

BY
LIEUTENANT ALBERT M. LEA,
UNITED STATES DRAGOONS.

WITH THE ACT FOR ESTABLISHING THE TERRITORIAL
GOVERNMENT OF WISCONSIN,
AND AN ACCURATE MAP OF THE DISTRICT.

PHILADELPHIA:
H. S. TANNER—SHAKSPEARE BUILDINGS.
1836.

THE BOOK THAT GAVE IOWA ITS NAME

TITLE PAGE OF LEA'S NOTES

A number of interesting parallels can be drawn between American and Iowa history. The Miner's Compact, signed by a group of sturdy Dubuque lead miners on June 17, 1830, has been called the Mayflower Compact of Iowa history. The numerous Claim Clubs, that were formed in Iowa and reached the peak of perfection in the Hawkeye State, have many counterparts in American history. The organic acts of Wisconsin and Iowa territories, the Constitutions of 1844, 1846, and 1857, are great documents of Iowa freedom.

The Abolitionist Crusade was in full swing between 1830 and 1860. The constitution of the American Anti-Slavery Society was drawn up in 1833, the year permanent settlement began in Iowa. A Negro who signed his name "Uncle Tom" joined with Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and agnostics in building the first church in Iowa at Dubuque in 1834. In the Case of Ralph, Chief Justice Mason handed down a decision contrary to that of Roger Taney in his Dred Scott decision.

Among the most prized symbols and documents relating to Iowa history are those dealing with education, for our public schools, free to all citizens, form the very backbone of our democratic way of life. In 1834 Stevens T. Mason, Governor of Michigan Territory, called for the creation of townships in the Black Hawk Purchase in order to

CASES
ARGUED AND DETERMINED
IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF IOWA.

JULY TERM 1839.

HON. CHARLES MASON, CHIEF JUSTICE.

" JOSEPH WILLIAMS, } ASSOCIATE JUDGES.
" THOMAS S. WILSON, }

In the matter of Ralph (a colored man,) on Habeas
Corpus.

Where a slave goes with the consent of his master to become a permanent resident of a free State, he cannot be regarded as a fugitive slave.

The act of 1820, for the admission of Missouri into the Union, which prohibits slavery north of 36 deg., 30 min., was not intended merely as a naked declaration, requiring further legislative action to carry it into effect, but must be regarded as an entire and final prohibition.

The master, who subsequently to this act, permits his slave to become a permanent resident here, cannot afterwards exercise any acts of ownership over him within this Territory.

Ralph being within this Territory was claimed by Montgomery, a resident of Missouri, as his slave, and by virtue of a precept from a Justice of the Peace, and certain proceedings pursuant to statute, being had before him, the sheriff of Du Buque county delivered the negro into the custody of the claimant, for the purpose of being transported to Missouri.

Ralph was afterward brought before the Judge of the 3d district by a

IOWA'S "DRED SCOTT" DECISION

FROM MORRIS' IOWA REPORTS

facilitate the establishment of schools. On January 1, 1839, Governor Robert Lucas approved a law providing for the establishment of common schools. The groundwork for these Iowa documents had been laid in the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.

The Constitution of 1846 empowered the General Assembly of the State of Iowa to provide for the disposition of the school fund, foster a system of common schools, and establish a state university. The State Agricultural College was established in 1858, eleven years after the organization of the State University of Iowa. Lincoln approved the Morrill Land Grant Act in 1862 — the first important Federal measure to aid higher education. On March 29, 1864, the General Assembly granted Iowa State Agricultural College the lands carried under the Act. These documents are historic landmarks in the progress of Iowa education.

"Posterity!" declared John Adams in 1777, "you will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it. If you do not, I shall repent it in heaven that I ever took half the pains to preserve it."

Most Iowans know and appreciate the freedoms handed down by Adams and his contemporaries.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN